

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A mobile communications terminal adapted to generate graphical image data defining a facial image which is animated to simulate actions accompanying speech generated from data received via a radio interface, wherein the characteristics of the facial image are selectable by a user of the terminal.

2. (Original) The mobile communications terminal of Claim 1, wherein the selectable characteristics of the facial image comprise at least one of base facial style, skin color, hair color, eye color, and mouth size.

3. (Original) The mobile communications terminal of Claim 1, wherein the characteristics of the speech are selectable by a user of the terminal.

Claims 4 through 22 (Canceled)

23. (New) A multimedia client terminal adapted to generate graphical image data defining a facial image which is animated to simulate actions accompanying speech, the terminal comprising:

a receiver arranged to receive signals for processing by the terminal so as to retrieve data therein, said signals comprising text defining the speech to be spoken and command data defining animations to accompany said speech;

storage means for storing data defining vocal characteristics, data defining facial characteristics and data defining facial animations; and

animated speech generating means responsive to said retrieved command data so as to select said facial animations and use said data defining vocal characteristics and said data defining facial characteristics to animate said speech.

24. (New) A multimedia client terminal according to claim 1, wherein the animated speech generating means is arranged to present said animated speech in conjunction with a graphical display of a face animated in accordance with said selected facial animation.

25. (New) A multimedia client terminal according to claim 1, wherein the facial animations include a talk animation, a smile animation and/or a wink animation.

26. (New) A multimedia client terminal according to claim 1, wherein the animated speech generating means is arranged to render the animated facial image in accordance with said facial characteristics.

27. (New) A multimedia client terminal according to claim 4, wherein the facial characteristics include skin colour and hair colour.

28. (New) A multimedia client terminal according to claim 1, wherein the vocal characteristics include voice gender, accent and language.

29. (New) A multimedia client terminal according to claim 1, wherein the signals comprise a multimedia document including a predetermined markup specifying a vocal style and/or a facial image and data defining facial animations.

30. (New) A multimedia client terminal according to claim 7, wherein the multimedia document includes data identifying a start and an end of said speech.

31. (New) A multimedia client terminal according to claim 8, wherein the animated speech generating means is arranged to select default facial characteristics and default vocal characteristics in response to reaching the end of the speech.

32. (New) A multimedia client terminal according to claim 1, wherein the facial characteristics and vocal characteristics are selectable by a user of the terminal.

33. (New) A multimedia client terminal according to claim 1, wherein the terminal comprises a mobile communications terminal, and the receiver is arranged to receive said signals via a radio interface.

34. (New) A multimedia client terminal adapted to generate graphical image data defining a facial image which is animated to simulate actions accompanying speech, the terminal comprising:

a receiver arranged to receive signals for processing by the terminal so as to retrieve data therein, said signals comprising data defining the speech to be spoken and command data defining animations to accompany said speech, said command data being independent of said data defining the speech to be spoken;

storage means for storing data defining vocal characteristics, data defining facial characteristics and data defining facial animations; and

animated speech generating means responsive to said retrieved command data so as to select said facial animations and use said data defining vocal characteristics and said data defining facial characteristics to animate said speech.